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JOSEPH S. MERRITT
The Maryland Flower Garden
HYDRANGEA SPECIALIST

Phone, Dundalk 226

Date

Our Order
Your Order No.
To Ship
Shipped
Via

	6"	7"	8"
0	80.00	125.00	250.00
0	75.00	100.00	150.00

MCBEE, ATHENS, O. 76390

* Blues Easily E: Early M: Mid-Season L: Late

TOTAL AMOUNT \$

Flowering Shoots per Plant — 2" and 3", One Shoot; 4", Two or More;
5" Three or More; 6" Five or More; 7" Eight or More; 8" Ten or More.

Merritt's Hydrangeas Bloom

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Hydrangea Culture

We are Hydrangea Specialists, growing no other Flowers or plants. We do not force Hydrangeas into flower, but concentrate all of our efforts to produce better Hydrangeas for you to bloom. We ship rooted cuttings and small plants, in season in all varieties, for growing, and dormant Hydrangeas in the Fall and early Spring for forcing. We force some of every variety, each year, for a culture check, and they can be seen at our Greenhouses during the early Spring months.

First, make sure of the varieties that grow best for you and that sell best in your locality. We offer thirty-six varieties this season. You will say, "Too many", and we agree; but each variety has its champion in one section of the country or another. Try a few novelties each year to see how they act under your conditions, but stick to the proven varieties until you have found a better one. If in doubt, as to the variety, please specify your selection early, mid-season or late, and we will give our very best judgement from our past experience, giving you the best varieties for your locality.

If you grow your own Hydrangeas, do not make the common mistake of rooting all of the blind shoots that appear. Remember that "Like begets Like", and if this practice is followed, it will eventually lead to disaster, and one day you will find a complete crop of blind Hydrangeas. Rather than that, keep varieties separate and select the very best flowering plants and get your cuttings from these by sacrificing the flower tips. It will pay dividends. If you purchase your cuttings, order early so that we might be better prepared to serve you. No order is too large for any variety, if we are advised in time, for we have ample stock of Quality Hydrangeas in all varieties. The Best Hydrangeas come from the earliest cuttings. Cuttings, with us, are shipped in the early Spring and until the first of July, for single flowering plants. Two inch and three inch plants are offered at all seasons and from these sizes, the larger and stronger plants are grown.

Use Virgin Soil, without food, for the first potting from the sand. If food is used the cuttings are easily ruined at this tender stage of growth. As soon as they are ready to be shifted to threes, then use your proper soil mixture. With us, it is Light Virgin Soil, (not spent Greenhouse soil). If soil is heavy, add one barrow of coarse sand to three barrows of loam. Add one barrow of well rotted cow manure to the four barrows of soil. One four inch pot full of bone meal to each barrow of soil and a three inch pot full of good fertilizer to each of soil. We find Vigero an ideal addition. We use this soil mixture in each potting, after two inch and find that if they are kept repotted, as necessary, no other food is needed. The soil should have a Ph of about 5.5. Most soils, however, that produce good carnations, cyclamen or poinsettias will usually grow Hydrangeas.

Color: Usually Hydrangeas flower pink. However, if your soil is full of iron, and they flower blue, try adding Lime to offset this condition. If blue is desired, add a three inch pot full of Aluminum Sulphate to each barrow of soil and if this does not change them to the desired shade, apply it in a liquid form during their forcing period, making certain that the soil is never allowed to dry until the chemical is completely exhausted.

General Culture: Keep small plants in a cool airy house, and as soon as danger of frost is over in the Spring, take them out into the beds for the Summer, repotting them to a larger size, as needed. Give them plenty of space and make certain the beds have good drainage. Be sure they

get sufficient water to keep them growing well. We usually repot them when they are taken from the houses and again about the first of August. If you grow your plants in the fields, then the first of September is the accepted time for potting.

Top the late flowering varieties about the twentieth of June, and the earliest flowering kinds about the tenth of July. When topping, leave sufficient foliage in fact, leave as much as possible for the plants to breathe well. If not too tall, we prefer soft pinching, for you will get several more good flowering shoots than if they are topped too low. Hydrangeas should be gone over during early August and all weak shoots stripped from them. This will allow the stronger shoots to make better flowers and more sure to bloom.

Hold back on water, during September and October. This will encourage dormancy. They will harden and buds set better, as the weather gets cooler. Try to have them in shape to be taken in to protected places before the first frost hits them. Don't be fooled. The first frost is excellent if it is mild and plants are in the proper shape, but we cannot control this frost and it is usually disastrous. Don't wait for the first frost. You might ruin your entire crop. Rather, take them into a cool Greenhouse, darkened a little, after the buds are well set and keep them just above freezing until late December. Do not allow them to freeze, nor to get too warm. Thirty-five degrees, if it could be controlled, would be ideal while in storage.

Watch watering during the dormant period. Too little will cause buds to shrivel and be lost. Too much will encourage growth in crowded conditions, and perhaps dampen off the buds. Water at this period, properly controlled, is most important.

The plants should be defoliated by the first of December and they should be started in a cool house about the twentieth of December at a night temperature of fifty degrees. Give them plenty of space on the benches, as soon as growth starts, or about the tenth of January, and at that time increase the temperature gradually to sixty degrees nights. Be sure the plants get good ventilation each day. A stuffy atmosphere will cause ruin and weak plants, while plenty of good fresh air will make strong plants. If plants are wanted for Mother's Day, they should be started about the first of February and the same general procedure should be followed. Hydrangeas should be syringed every day the sun shines, but no water on the foliage on cloudy days. This should prevent red spider, but, if it should show up, be on the alert and use some good spray material. We like Semasan; however, it should be watched to see that sufficient quantity is used to kill properly, but not enough to injure the plants. Do not use it after the flowers start to open. Be sure they are good and clean, and it will not be necessary. Use sulphur, if it becomes necessary, for mildew.

Try to keep your Hydrangeas coming along nicely, so that buds definitely show about six weeks before the time wanted for sale. If they do, in this section of the country, they will bloom easily and in plenty of time to give them a lower temperature with plenty of air to harden them, before sending them to your customers. In cooler climates, seven weeks should be allowed after buds are seen.

Always remember, the best Hydrangeas come from the earliest cuttings.

JOSEPH S. MERRITT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Plant Industry
Washington

Division of
Fruit and Vegetable Crops and Diseases

Jan. 6, 1943

Mr. Joseph S. Merritt
Dundalk, Md.

Dear Mr. Merritt:

Here's

For many years this Division and the Department Library have co-operated in building and maintaining a collection of the catalogs and other trade lists issued by nurserymen and seedsmen. Every catalog or list received is shelf-listed and becomes a permanent part of the Library. The collection now numbers more than 67,000 items. As a student's and research worker's collection it is invaluable in investigations concerning the history, nomenclature, characteristics, and distribution of varieties. It is also in constant use in answering inquiries as to where plant material may be obtained and regarding varieties being introduced to the trade. The collection as a whole is available to the public for reference use, and the information in it is made readily accessible by means of indexes.

In order that this collection may be kept up to date and as complete as possible, we wish to obtain all trade catalogs and lists of fruits, vegetables, and ornamentals as issued. Will you kindly send us your catalog, price lists or other similar material of the current year? It will also be appreciated if you will place our address (Reference Librarian, Division of Fruit and Vegetable Crops and Diseases, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.) on your permanent mailing list to receive your annual catalog and other publications as issued.

We enclose an addressed label for your use in sending your publications.

Very truly yours,

J.R. Magness

Encl.

J. R. Magness
Head Horticulturist in Charge

1. Mentre i bambini si sono messi a correre per la strada, hanno fatto un po' di sport e hanno imparato a camminare.

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